

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MANAGU 00954 281545Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 SY-05 USSS-00 EB-08 FAA-00  
DOTE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 PA-02  
SP-02 SS-15 /068 W  
-----063606 281547Z /41

O R 281501Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5853  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
USCINCSO, QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

UNCLAS MANAGUA 0954

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, CASC, NU  
SUBJECT: EXPLOSION AT MANAGUA'S LAS MERCEDES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 7:15 P.M. (LOCAL) ON FEBRUARY 27, AN EXPLOSION OCCURRED IN A MEN'S ROOM AT THE LAS MERCEDES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PASSENGER TERMINAL INJURING ONE PERSON. PANAMERICAN AIRWAYS FLIGHT 501 WAS MAKING ITS FINAL APPROACH FOR TOUCHDOWN AT THE INSTANT OF THE BLAST AND WAS WAVED OFF BY CONTROL TOWER PERSONNEL; THE FLIGHT CONTINUED ON TO ITS NEXT SCHEDULED STOP, PANAMA CITY, PANAMA.

2. THE BLAST WAS SUBSTANTIAL; ONE PERSON, BELIEVED TO BE A NICARAGUAN CITIZEN, MAY HAVE SUFFERED INTERNAL INJURIES. THE RSO, SAN SALVADOR WAS AT THE AIRPORT, WAITING TO MEET A TWO-MAN SY MOBILE TRAINING TEAM ON PAA 501, AND OBSERVED THAT THE EXPLOSIVE AGENT WAS PROBABLY BLACK POWDER. GUARDIA NACIONAL (GN) ELEMENTS CORDONED OFF MOST OF THE AIRPORT, BEGAN A SEARCH OF OTHER AREAS, AND THE UNCLASSIFIED

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AIRPORT WAS CALM BY ABOUT 8:00 P.M.

3. PAA 501 REMAINED OVERNIGHT IN PANAMA CITY AND WAS SCHEDULED TO LAND IN MANAGUA AT 8:00 A.M. ON FEBRUARY 28. (PANAMA IS NORMAL TURNAROUND POINT FOR THIS FLIGHT AND MANAGUA IS SCHEDULED STOP FOR PAA 502 EN ROUTE GUATEMALA CITY AND POINTS NORTH. EMB IS INFORMED THAT MTT IS ABOARD.)

4. FLIGHT OPERATIONS AT LAS MERCEDES ARE DESCRIBED AS "NORMAL" BY PAN AMERICAN'S LOCAL MANAGEMENT. ARRIVING PASSENGERS SHOULD EXPERIENCE NO DELAYS. U.S. FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION PRE-FLIGHT SECURITY CHECKS HAVE BEEN THE NORM FOR SOME MONTHS AT MANAGUA; THOSE PROCEDURES ARE BEING APPLIED WITH VIGOR TODAY.

5. EMBASSY REPORTED BASIC DETAILS OF THIS INCIDENT BY TELEPHONE TO STATE OP CENTER AT 7:45 P.M. (LOCAL) FEBRUARY 27.  
RUBENSTEIN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRPORTS, BOMB DAMAGE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978MANAGU00954  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780091-1154  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MANAGUA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 72  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 0bdca2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3556515  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EXPLOSION AT MANAGUA'S LAS MERCEDES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
**TAGS:** PINS, ASEC, CASC, NU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/0bdca2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014